

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-8, and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Hakim* (6,647,828); claims 9-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hakim*; claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled and new claims 19 and 20 have been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-7, 10-15, and 19 and 20 remain active in the present application.

Considering first the rejection of claims 1, 4-8, and 13-15 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Hakim*, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, the sole independent claim in this grouping, has been amended so as to patentably define over *Hakim*. More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the scraper blade is longer than the scraper handle. This is clearly not the case in *Hakim*, wherein the plastic spoon has a very long handle and a relatively short bowl or dish section.

It can be appreciated that it would be highly impractical for one to try to scrape sweat from an entire horse's body using a small plastic spoon having a bowl portion that appears to be about an inch in length. Such a scraping task would be cost-prohibitive due to the time it would take for a trainer to scrape a horse with a plastic spoon. In order to efficiently scrape sweat and debris from a horse, a sweat scraper having a long scraper blade is required, as shown in applicant's Figures 1-5. It is submitted that there is no teaching in *Hakim* to make the bowl of the spoon with a length greater than that of the handle. Such a resulting spoon would be impractical, if not dangerous.

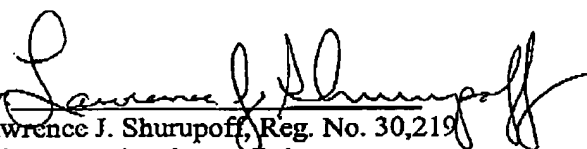
Considering next the rejection of claims 9-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hakim*, it is respectfully submitted that, for the reasons noted above, applicant's claims patentably define over *Hakim*. There is simply no suggestion or motivation in *Hakim* to provide a spoon product with a scraper blade which is longer than its handle.

Applicant has introduced new dependent claims 19 and 20 for the Examiner's consideration. Claim 19 specifies that the scraper blade edges are substantially parallel with one another. This is clearly seen in Figure 2. Moreover, claim 20 has been introduced to specify that the scraper blade has a substantially constant width. This again is shown in applicant's Figure 2. A review of *Hakim*

fails to disclose any analogous structure whatsoever.

Respectfully submitted,

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